

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE #1

In re Application of: )  
Shinichi ITO et al. )  
Serial No.: Not yet assigned ) Group Art Unit:  
Filed: April 26, 2001 ) Examiner:

For: FILM FORMATION METHOD, SEMICONDUCTOR ELEMENT AND  
METHOD THEREOF, AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING A DISK-SHAPED  
STORAGE MEDIUM

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the  
Examiner's attention the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449. Copies  
of the listed documents are attached. Applicants respectfully request that the  
Examiner consider the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449 and indicate  
that they were considered by making an appropriate notation on this form.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with the above-  
referenced application.

The following is a concise statement of relevance of the non-English  
language documents:

1. Japanese Patent Laid Open (KOKAI) No. 9-320950 discloses an apparatus for spiral-coating. The apparatus has a dispenser-nozzle which can move from center to outside over the substrate. The scan-speed of the dispenser-nozzle is controlled corresponding to the position along the radius. In this system, a rotary speed is constant.

2. Japanese Patent Laid Open (KOKAI) No. 2000-150352 discloses a resist coating process with a motion of a dispenser-nozzle from outside of the wafer to center position. In this process, resist film is formed with exhaust resist solution out of the wafer.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

By:



Richard V. Burgujian  
Reg. No. 31,744

Dated: April 26, 2001  
Enclosures  
RVB/FPD/peg